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LETTERS,

REMARKS, &c.

WITH A

View to open an Extensive Trade

IN THE

ARTICLE OF TIN,

FROM THE

COUNTY OF CORNWALL

TO

INDIA, PERSIA, and CHINA.

Unwin (G.) Purser &c

LONDON:
PRINTED BY W. AND J. STRATFORD, HOLBORN-HILL.
1790.

TO THE

PROPRIETORS OF TIN MINES

IN THE

COUNTY OF CORNWALL.

LETTERS, &c.

COLLECTED AND ARRANGED

BY

THEIR FAITHFUL FRIEND,

AND OBEDIENT SERVANT,

GEORGE UNWIN,

PURSER IN HIS MAJESTY'S NAVY,
AND LATE IN THE
EAST INDIA COMPANY'S SERVICE.

COPY *of a* LETTER *from* MR. GEORGE UNWIN *to* DAVID SCOTT, *Eſq. a capital Aſiatic Merchant, and a Director of the Eaſt-India Company, dated March* 12, 1789.

SIR,

I Take the liberty to addreſs you on a ſubject, the conſideration of which may be of ſome importance to this country, particularly to the trade of the County of Cornwall.

The very extenſive Tin Trade carried on by the Dutch from the Iſland of Banca in the Eaſt-Indies to China, to the amount of about two thouſand five hundred tons a year, by which they are enabled to load ſix ſhips annually for Europe, induced me, when I was collecting Tin from that Iſland, to bring home a Sample, which I have had aſſayed, and have the pleaſure to find, that the Corniſh Tin is of the ſame quality in every reſpect.

In the year 1787, I collected from the inhabitants of the Iſland of Banca in the Eaſt-Indies, about two hundred tons, and carried it to China in the Lanſdown Eaſt-Indiaman, which ſold at 101l. per Ton, and produced a profit of fifty per cent. Notwithſtanding the quantity annually carried by the Dutch, and what is collected by our Eaſt-India

Country ſhips, and Indiamen from Prince of Wales's Iſland in the Straights of Malacca, the market at China has increaſed of late years from 68l. 13s. 6d. to 101l. per ton, by which means a ſum from 3 to 400,000l. in this article is annually exported to China.

I have had the honour of a peruſal of your Letter (put into my hands by *I. Kemys Tynte, Eſq.* one of His Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales's family) to the Hon. Eaſt-India Company, in which it appears, that the homeward China Cargoes, ſince this wonderful increaſe of trade to China, by Mr. Pitt's Commutation Act, amounts, upon an average, to 1,300,000l. and that only 150,000l. of the produce of this country is annually exported to China, the balance 1,~~000~~150,000l. to be paid for with the produce of India and Perſia, and ſpecie from this and thoſe countries, England alone furniſhing not leſs than ~~700,000~~l. annually.
700,000l

If the Tin Trade was carried on from this country to China, not only the Eaſt-India Company would receive a good profit, but, what is more material, the nation would very much benefit in the increaſe of its revenue, by the materials, ſuch as hemp, tar, iron, deals, baulk, candles, leather, and gunpowder, uſed in raiſing Tin from the Mines, which articles pay a heavy duty to government, and a duty alſo of Five per cent. would be received from the export.

The county of Cornwall at preſent does not produce a quantity equal to what may in a ſhort time

time be exported to China: New Mines will be opened, and, above every other conſideration, ſome thouſands of diſtreſſed Tinners, who are hourly expected to riſe in that County, for want of the common neceſſaries of life, will find conſtant employment when this trade is eſtabliſhed.

ASSAYER's CERTIFICATE.

THESE are to certify, that I have made two Trials by the Aſſay-Furnace, of two Samples of Tin, one from the Iſland of Banca in the Eaſt-Indies, the other from the County of Cornwall, and have found in thoſe Trials not the leaſt difference in the quality of the Tin, except, that the Corniſh contains twelve grains of ſilver in the pound weight, and the India only ſix.

Signed,

J. B. PRATT,
Aſſay-Maſter.

Foſter-Lane,
March 12, 1789.

This Letter was preſented by David Scott, Eſq. to the Court of Directors, who were pleaſed to order Fifty Tons to be ſhipped that ſeaſon for China by way of trial.

*** A Copy of the above Letter preſented by Meſſrs. Unwin and Donnithorne to His Royal Highneſs The Prince of Wales's Council, requeſting the matter to be laid before the Hon. Eaſt-India Company, and the Board of Control.

AT the inſtance of the Right Hon. LORD VISCOUNT FALMOUTH, and ſupported by

The Right Hon. Lord Viſcount CRAGGS ELLIOT,
The Right Hon. Lord Viſ. MOUNT EDGCUMBE,
SIR FRANCIS BASSETT, Bart.
SIR WILLIAM LEMON, Bart.
SIR JOHN ST. AUBYN, Bart.
SIR WILLIAM MOLESWORTH, Bart.
W. A. S. BOSCAWEN, Eſq.
PHILIP RASHLEIGH, Eſq.
DAVID HOWELL, Eſq.
JOHN CALL, Eſq.
HON. RICHARD EDGCUMBE,
NICHOLAS DONNITHORNE, Eſq.

A Copy of Mr. Unwin's Letter was ſent to the Right Hon. Mr. Pitt, requeſting him to give every encouragement and protection in extending the Tin Trade of the County of Cornwall.

COPY

COPY *of a* LETTER *from the Hon.* WILLIAM BRODERICK, *Under-Secretary to the Board of Control, to* RICHARD GRAY *and* WILLIAM BIRCH, *Eſqrs. Clerks to His Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales's Council. Dated Whitehall, March* 19, 1789.

GENTLEMEN,

I Am directed by the Commiſſioners for the Affairs of India to inform you, that your Letter of the 18th inſtant, with its incloſures, have been laid before them.

The Commiſſioners are very ſenſible of the importance of the object to which they refer, and will continue ſo far as depends upon them, to give every encouragement to the Plan of exporting the Tin of Great-Britain for the ſupply of the China Market.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

COPY

COPY *of a* LETTER *from* THOMAS MORTON, *Eſq. Secretary to the Honourable Eaſt-India Company, to* RICHARD GRAY *and* WILLIAM BIRCH, *Eſqrs. Clerks to his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales's Council. Dated Eaſt-India Houſe, May* 15, 1789.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Court of Directors of the Eaſt-India Company having had under their conſideration the ſeveral particulars of information on the Article of Tin, contained in the Papers incloſed in your Letter of the 18th of March laſt, with a view of introducing it as an article of trade from this Country to China; I am directed to requeſt you will be pleaſed to repreſent to His Royal Highneſs's Council; it appears from the Company's Records, that about the year 1761 or 2, efforts were made to introduce the article in the ſeveral markets of India, as well as China, all of which proved unſucceſsful, owing to the high rate of its firſt coſt. In China particular it ſold at a loſs of twenty-three per cent.

" That the ſupracargoes at that time repreſented,
" in regard to its quality, that the merchants
" allowed it to be ſomething finer than that of
" the Dutch, but that it was not ſo proper for
" beating into leaf, the uſe to which it is chiefly
" applied for the purpoſe of tinning paper,

which

" which the people burn morning and evening,
" as an offering to their idols, and which cauſes
" a great conſumption of the article."

The ſupracargoes further repreſent, that unleſs it could be purchaſed at from 66s. to 70s. per cwt. it would not anſwer. As its firſt coſt at that time was from 4l. 5s. to 4l. 10s. per cwt. no further meaſures were taken. But as it now appears that the article bears a better price at China than at the period alluded to, and is alſo conſiderably fallen here, the Company, as well in compliance with the wiſhes of His Royal Highneſs, as from a deſire of affording every aſſiſtance to the intereſt of the Britiſh manufacturers, have determined upon another trial, and have accordingly conſigned to China on the ſhips of this ſeaſon a quantity of Fifty Tons, with ſtrong injunctions to their ſupracargoes to encourage and promote its ſale by every means in their power.

I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant.

COPY

A PLAN *propoſed by* MR. GEORGE UNWIN *for the Relief of the preſent diſtreſſed Tin Trade of the County of Cornwall, in Caſe the Honourable Eaſt-India Company, and Individuals trading to China, do not export the Surplus Tin raiſed more than the regular Conſumption of the European Markets; by which Means a Sum not leſs than 40,000l. per Annum will be brought into the County, and a conſtant Market for the Surplus.*

THE County of Cornwall is ſaid to produce 21,000 Blocks per Annum, ſay at ſeven per Ton, is 3000 Tons at 58l. in Cornwall, or 66l. per Ton in London, produces 198,000l.

2,400 Tons ⅘ of the preſent conſumption to be raiſed to 72l. per Ton in Cornwall, or 80l. in London, will produce 192,000l.

600 Tons ⅕ Mr. Unwin recommends the Pro-

3,000 Tons prietors of Stocked Tin to get the Eaſt-India Company to ſend it to China, to be ſold on account of the County, allowing a commiſſion of five per cent. on the groſs ſales, and the nett proceeds to be paid into the Treaſury at Canton, for which bills are to be granted at 365 days ſight; the Eaſt-India Company, for thoſe advantages, will no doubt readily advance half the value of the home coſt in bills at a certain date,

date, to become due the ſame time as thoſe for the balance of the nett proceeds of the Tin ſold in China; which bills can be diſcounted to be divided among the proprietors of Stocked Tin, and will not be attended with any inconvenience to the Company, who will not have to pay any money before-hand, and will have double ſecurity in the quantity ſent out, and the proprietors will indemnify all loſs by inſurance, and be at no charge for freight.

The ſtatements in the following pages will ſhew the advantages in ſending out the Surplus Tin to China.

GEORGE UNWIN.

Sept. 16, 1789.

NICHOLAS DONNITHORNE, *Eſq.*
Chairman of the Quarterly Tin Meetings in the County of Cornwall.

*** This Plan, if it had taken Place was to be altered, the Company to advance Three-Quarters of the Home-Coſt.

Dr. FIRST STATEMENT.

	£.
To Amount of Stocked Tin 600 Tons Value in Cornwall 58l. per Ton, ſay in London 72l.	43,200
To Inſurance to China on 43,200l. at 3½ per Cent. - - - -	1,512
To Intereſt on 1512l. ſay twelve months, three months being allowed without Intereſt, making in the whole fifteen months, the time the ſhip will be out and home, at Five per Cent. - - -	75
To Diſcount on Company's Bills for ¾ the Prime Coſt, 32,400l. payable at two years four months, allowing one year four months for the ſhip out and home, and the bills payable at 365 days ſight, makes two years four months, at the preſent diſcount, 5 per Cent. - - -	3,780
To Ditto for the Balance 25,200l. received in Bills, one year four months after the Tin is ſhipped, payable 365 days after ſight, Diſcount at 4½ per Cent. - - -	1,134
Commiſſion on 54,000l. at 5 per Cent.	2,700
Boat Hire and other Charges to Canton	150
To Profit and Loſs gained - -	5,049
£.	57,600

FIRST

FIRST STATEMENT. *Cr.*

	£.
By Amount Sale 600 Tons of Tin taken at the Medium Price at Canton in the year 1788, paid for in Old Mexico Dollars, valued at 5s. each, and at 90l. per Ton	54,000
By Profit in the Remittances, valuing the Mexico Dollar at 5s. 4d. as received into the Company's Treasury in the year 1788, at 6l. 13s. 4d. per cent. on 54,000l.	3,600
£.	57,600

SECOND

Dr. SECOND STATEMENT.

	£.
To Amount of the whole produce in Cornwall, 21,000 Blocks, or 3,000 Tons, as ſold in London, March 1789, at 66l. per Ton - -	198,000
Balance in favour of the County -	42,249
£.	240,249

SECOND

SECOND STATEMENT. *Cr.*

	£.
By Amount Sale of $\frac{4}{5}$ of the Produce 2,400 Tons, raiſed from 58l. per Ton in Cornwall, ſay in London 80l. per Ton	192,000
By Amount of Stocked Tin to be ſhipped for China, $\frac{1}{5}$ of the produce 600 Tons, at 72l. per Ton in London -	43,200
By Profit and Loſs gained in China on the Stocked Tin - - - -	5,049
£.	240,249

COPY

COPY *of a* LETTER *from* NICHOLAS DONNITHORNE, *Eſq. Chairman of the Quarterly Tin Meetings in Cornwall, to the Honourable Court of Directors of the Eaſt-India Company. Dated London, Sept.* 23, 1789.

HON. SIRS,

WITH all due reſpect, I beg leave to offer every apology, which may be required for the great liberty I am now taking, but when it is underſtood that I am acting in behalf of many thouſands, who, at this time, are deſtitute of even the moſt common neceſſaries of life, I truſt that this intruſion will not be deemed altogether either impertinent or unpardonable.

I am lately returned, Sirs, from the mining pariſhes in Cornwall, where I have been witneſs to the greateſt imaginable poverty and diſtreſs, inſomuch, that I have ſeen women gathering ſnails in order to make a broth for the ſupport of their families.

It is true, the Corniſh miners have, of late, been very riotous, and that the Gentlemen of the County have been obliged to call in the aid of the military, but, when the extremely low price of Tin, and the very high price of Corn, are conſidered, much may be ſaid in defence of theſe poor induſtrious labourers.

For

For the laſt three or four years, Sirs, the quantity of Tin annually riſen, upon an average, has been rather better than 21,000 blocks, and the European markets ſcarce equal to the conſumption of 17,000 blocks, conſequently the ſurplus, or one-fifth part of the whole quantity being afloat in the markets at home, and all men being eager to make ſales, has reduced the price from 84l. to 72l. per ton, and I do ſolemnly aver, Gentlemen, that, unleſs ſome plan can be adopted for almoſt inſtant relief, the conſequences will be dreadful.

His Royal Highneſs the Duke of Cornwall's Council, having laſt year, taken into conſideration the deplorable ſtate of the trade, ſolicited you, Sirs, to export a quantity to China, when you were pleaſed to ſend out fifty Tons by way of trial.

As the diſtreſſes of the County are ſtill increaſing, I am humbly to requeſt your Honourable Board will take them into your tender conſideration, and grant us every relief in your power, by purchaſing our Surplus Tin (about 600 Tons) at the preſent low price, of 72l. per Ton on board.

I am further induced to make this application to you, Sirs, for the exportation of the above quantity, eſſentially neceſſary for our relief, on account of the great probability there is of your ſelling the ſame at China to a very conſiderable advantage, as from the lateſt and beſt information I have procured, Tin at Canton, from the

year

year 1781 to 1788, ſold from 90l. to 100 per Ton which would leave a profit of 30 to 40 per Cent, and that 600 Tons is a ſmall portion of the annual conſumption in that market.

Should this plan not meet the approbation of the Honourable Board, I would then ſolicit you to ſend it out on account and riſk of the County of Cornwall, to be ſold the ſeaſon it arrives, and to receive the proceeds of the Account Sales into your Treaſury, rating the old Mexico Dollar at the price given for Dollars at that period; and alſo to permit the Committee for managing the Tin trade of the County to draw bills for ¾ of the prime coſt at thirty months after date without intereſt, or at any earlier date, if more agreeable, allowing you a diſcount of 5 per cent per annum, for the difference of time, the Committee to depoſit in your hands, the policy of inſurance for the whole amount, and to indemnify you againſt any loſs that may ariſe from your very laudable exertions in behalf of their trade.

As this plan, Sirs, is propoſed for the relief of the County of Cornwall, I am in hopes in the preſent inſtance, you will excuſe the charge of freight; and ſhould the event of the fifty Tons prove advantageous, the Committee will be ready to enter into a contract, for a certain time, to ſupply the Honourable Company with the Surplus Tin of Cornwall at a reaſonable rate, ſo as

to

to make it an object worthy your attention, and which would alſo be the means of raiſing the price in the European markets, to the ſtandard from which it has lately fallen.

I beg to ſubmit the incloſed plan to the conſideration of the Honourable Board, and am,

SIRS,

With all poſſible reſpect,

Your moſt obedient and very humble Servant.

A PLAN *propoſed to the Honourable Eaſt-India Company, by* NICHOLAS DONNITHORNE, *Eſq. Chairman of the Quarterly Tin Meetings in the County of Cornwall, for ſending out to China this Seaſon,* 600 *Tons.*

THE Honourable Eaſt-India Company to have the offer of the 600 Tons of Tin, put on board at the preſent market price, 72l. per Ton, amounting in the whole to 43,200l. to pay for it on the ſame terms as the fifty tons of laſt ſeaſon.

Should this plan not meet the approbation of the Hon. Eaſt-India Company, then to permit the above quantity to be ſent out in their ſhips on account and riſk of the County of Cornwall, to be ſold the ſeaſon it arrives at Canton, and to grant bills to the committee, appointed to manage the Tin Trade, for ¾ of the whole amount of the above 600 tons, amounting to 32,400l. payable at thirty months after date, without intereſt, allowing a diſcount of five per cent. per ann. for the difference of time, and the committee to indemnify the Hon. Eaſt-India Company for any loſs that may ariſe to them in the ſale of the above Tin, to be conſigned to their ſupracargoes in China, and to depoſit in the Hon. Company's hands, a policy of inſurance for the whole amount.

The

The Sale produce of the ſaid Tin to be paid into the Hon. Company's Treaſury at Canton, rating the Old Mexico Dollar at the price given that ſeaſon in China for Dollars, and an account ſale made out and tranſmitted to England, with bills of exchange drawn on the honourable court of directors in favour of the Corniſh Committee, at 365 days ſight, for the balance remaining, after the ſaid ſum of 32,400l. is deducted from the Account Sales.

COPY *of a* LETTER *from* THOMAS MORTON, *Eſq. Secretary to the Honourable Eaſt-India Company, to* NICHOLAS DONNITHORNE, *Eſq. Chairman of the Quarterly Tin Meetings in Cornwall. Dated Eaſt-India Houſe, Sept* 28, 1789.

SIRS,

THE Court of Directors of the Eaſt-India Company, have conſidered your letter, dated 25th Inſtant, ſtating the diſtreſſed ſituation of the Corniſh Miners, ariſing from the preſent low price of Tin, and the large quantity of that article now afloat in the markets at home, and alſo a plan for ſending to China this ſeaſon ſix hundred tons of Tin, on the terms and conditions therein mentioned; and I am directed to acquaint you, that the Court of Directors do agree to purchaſe, from the proprietors of the mines in Cornwall from five to ſix hundred tons of Tin, of the beſt quality produced from ſuch mines, at 72l. per Ton on board, to be exported on the ſhips of the enſuing ſeaſon, in blocks, caps, and ingots, of ſuch ſize as ſhall be directed by the Court of Directors, to be paid for ſix months after delivery, or at ſuch credit as may hereafter be agreed on by the parties.

I am,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant.

GOLD-BEATER's CERTIFICATE.

London, Nov. 6, 1789.

THESE are to certify, that I have made a trial of the malleability of two Samples of Tin, one from the Iſland of Banca in the Eaſt-Indies, weighing 7 dwts. 14 grs. and the other from the County of Cornwall, exactly of the ſame ſize, weighing 7 dwts. 15 grs. by beating them into leaf, each of which produced thirty leaves, four inches ſquare, and that I have found the latter of a more malleable quality, can be beat into leaf ſooner, and carried to a greater extent than the former.

Signed,

RICHARD MAY,
Workman to Jonathan Smith,
Gold-Beater, Fore-Street.

London, Nov. 6, 1789.

THESE are to certify, that during many years practice in beating Gold and Silver into leaf, and making experiments on the malleability of other metals, I have always found, that the greater the quantity of either of the above were incorporated with thoſe metals, they will endure the hammer to beat them to a greater extent, and, that the Tin of Cornwall,

Cornwall, in conſequence of its poſſeſſing more ſilver than the Tin of Banca, retains a greater firmneſs in its texture than the latter, when carried to the ſame extent, and can be beat at leſs expence.

Signed,

JONATHAN SMITH,
Gold-Beater.

*** A pound weight of Corniſh Tin can be beat into leaf to cover a ſpace of thirty-five yards ſquare.

The Chineſe before they beat the Tin into leaf, muſt be at the trouble of caſting the blocks into ſheets, which is attended with a much greater expence than it could be done in this country by means of our flatting mills, till it is made fit for the hammer, when the Chineſe can beat it into leaf at a leſs expence than the people of this country, owing to the cheapneſs of labour.

COPY

COPY *of a* LETTER *from* MR. GEORGE UNWIN to RICHARD GRAY *and* WILLIAM BIRCH, *Eſqrs. Clerks to his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales's Council. Dated Nov.* 12, 1789.

GENTLEMEN,

I BEG you will do me the favour to repreſent to His Royal Highneſs's Council, that, in conſequence of the repreſentations lately made to the Honourable Eaſt India Company of the diſtreſſed ſtate of the Tin Trade of the County of Cornwall, which has ſuffered during laſt year a loſs of one-fifth of its produce, in value about 40,000l. per annum, they were pleaſed to extend my plan of exporting the Tin of Cornwall, by giving an order to Mr. Nicholas Donnithorne, Chairman of the Corniſh Tin Meetings, for 600 tons to be ſhipped this ſeaſon, which has not only given great relief to that trade, but will be the means, at this time, of bringing half that ſum again to the County of Cornwall.

Laſt week I made a moſt important diſcovery of the quality of the Corniſh Block Tin, compared with that from Banca in the Eaſt-Indies, in which it appears, that the Tin of Cornwall is equal, if not ſuperior, to the latter in every reſpect, and, that the repreſentations made to the Honourable Eaſt-India Company, between twenty and thirty years ago, from Canton, that the Corniſh Tin was not ſo proper to beat into leaf,

the uſe to which it is chiefly applied for tinning paper, which the Chineſe burn morning and evening as an offering to their idols, has proceeded from miſrepreſentations to the ſupracargoes at that time, by the Chineſe, of the quality of the Tin of Cornwall.

I have the honor to ſend you, for the information of His Royal Highneſs's Council, a Book, containing ſeveral leaves of the Tins of England and Banca, which I have had beat for experiment, with the neceſſary certificates, to prove their quality.

I am,

With the greateſt reſpect, &c.

An

An ACCOUNT *of* TIN *ſhipped from the* COUNTY OF CORNWALL, *by the* HONOURABLE EAST-INDIA COMPANY *for* CHINA.

Anno.		*C.*	*qr.*	*lb.*
1749	The quantity not aſcertained.			
1762	401 Boxes of Corniſh Grain Tin, in Caps -	1920	3	27
	187 Ditto Common Tin -	599	1	12
1763	141 Ditto Corniſh Grain Tin, in Caps - -	712	2	9
1766	40 Ditto Common Tin -	206	1	24
1768	200 Ditto Ditto in Caps -	1014	3	4
Tons	222 14 0 20 - -	*C.* 4454	0	20

		Tons.
1789	In Blocks, Ingots, and Caps, ſhipped by the Company - -	50
	Price 68l. to 69l. 10s. per Ton	
	In Private Trade - - -	38
	Price 66l. to 69l. per Ton	
1790	Shipped by the Honourable Eaſt-India Company in Ingots for China -	775
	Ditto for Madras }	5
	Ditto for Bengal } by way of Trial	10
	Ditto for Bombay }	10
	Price 68l. 13s. 4d. per Ton	
		888

Shipped upon Mr. Unwin's Plan in the Courſe of a Year from the County of Cornwall 5770 Blocks.

An

An ACCOUNT *of the* ANNUAL PRODUCE *of the* TIN *of* CORNWALL, *with the* PRICES *sold at in the* COUNTY *from* LADY-DAY 1750 *to* CHRISTMAS 1789.

Years.	No. of Blocks raised at about 6½ to a Ton.	Prices sold at in Cornwall at per Cwt.									Average Price per Annum.		
		Lady Day			Midsum.			Michael-mas.			Christm.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1750	18,698	3	4	0	3	4	0	3	6	0	3	5	6	3	4	10½
1751	14,776	3	5	6	3	5	0	3	5	0	3	5	0	3	5	1½
1752	16,574	3	5	6	3	7	0	3	8	0	3	8	0	3	7	1½
1753	16,358	3	8	0	3	8	0	3	8	0	3	8	0	3	8	0
1754	17,708	3	8	0	3	7	6	3	8	0	3	8	0	3	7	10½
1755	17,924	3	8	0	3	8	0	3	7	0	3	5	0	3	7	0
1756	18,033	3	5	0	3	3	6	3	2	0	3	0	0	3	2	7½
1757	17,887	3	0	0	3	0	0	2	19	0	2	18	0	2	19	3
1758	17,681	2	17	6	2	16	0	2	16	0	2	16	0	2	16	3
1759	17,140	2	16	0	2	16	0	2	16	0	2	16	0	2	16	0
1760	17,662	2	16	0	2	16	0	2	16	0	2	16	0	2	16	0
1761	15,571	2	16	6	3	0	0	3	2	0	3	1	0	2	19	10½
1762	16,801	3	3	0	3	4	0	3	5	0	3	7	0	3	4	9
1763	17,786	3	8	6	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	8	10½
1764	16,997	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0
1765	17,923	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0
1766	19,861	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0
1767	18,529	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0
1768	17,334	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0
1769	18,838	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9	0
1770	19,355	3	8	0	3	8	0	3	5	0	3	5	0	3	6	6
1771	18,349	3	5	0	3	5	0	3	5	0	3	5	0	3	5	0
1772	20,531	3	5	0	3	4	0	3	4	0	3	0	0	3	3	3
1773	18,540	2	18	0	2	14	0	2	12	0	2	12	0	2	14	0
1774	15,975	2	12	0	2	12	0	2	12	0	2	14	0	2	12	6
1775	17,024	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0
1776	17,240	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	2	19	0	2	19	9
1777	18,010	2	19	0	2	19	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	2	19	6
1778	16,302	3	1	0	3	1	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	6
1779	17,411	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0
1780	19,052	3	0	0	3	1	0	3	2	0	3	2	0	3	1	3
1781	16,969	3	2	0	3	3	0	3	5	0	3	7	0	3	4	3

Duties of Wales's Duty, Freight and Insurance from 1782
Cornwall, Commission scribbling the Large Blocks
into Slabs, Wharfage and Waterside Charges in Town
and Country amount in the whole to 8/- Pound W.

which being added to the foregoing prices will shew what one hundred of tin can be sold for in London to all places beyond the Cape of Good Hope.

Years	No. of Blocks raised at about 6½ to a Ton.	Prices sold at in Cornwall per Cwt.				Average Price per Annum.
		Lady Day	Midsum.	Michael-mas.	Christm.	
1782	16,548	3 10 0	3 10 0	3 10 0	3 10 0	3 10 0
1783	16,705	3 10 0	3 10 0	3 10 0	3 10 0	3 10 0
1784	17,456	3 10 0	3 10 0	3 10 0	3 12 0	3 10 6
1785	18,753	3 12 0	3 12 0	3 12 0	3 12 0	3 12 0
1786	22,096	3 12 0	3 12 0	3 12 0	3 12 0	3 12 0
1787	20,824	3 12 0	3 12 0	3 12 0	3 12 0	3 12 0
1788	21,790	3 12 0	3 10 0	3 6 0	2 18 0	3 6 6
1789	22,132	3 0 0	3 0 0	3 5 0	3 5 0	3 2 6

EFFECT *of the* TIN TRADE *in* CORNWALL, *in* PEACE *and* WAR.

Years From		Average No. of Blocks raised annually.	Average Price sold.
1750 to 1755 both included	6 Years Peace	17,006	3 6 8
1756 to 1762	7 Ditto War	17,250	2 19 3
1763 to 1772	10 Ditto Peace	18,550	3 7 9
1773 to 1781	9 Ditto War	17,391	2 19 1
1782 to 1789	8 Ditto Peace	19,538	3 9 5

The annual Consumption of the European Markets is estimated at 17,000 Blocks.

From the above account it will appear that the quantity raised has increased, from the year 1785 to the present time, from 4 to 5000 blocks more than the annual consumption, by means of several extensive copper-mines in Cornwall having ceased to work, and some hundreds of those unfortunate miners being driven out, have employed themselves in the Tin mines, which has been the cause of all the present misfortunes of the Tin trade of the County of Cornwall, which would have been ruined had not the trade to China been opened, which has been shut up 21 years, through misrepresentations and inattention to the rise and fall of the China market.

ACCOUNT *of* TIN *imported from the* EAST INDIES *into* HOLLAND *for thirty Years paſt; and the Average Prices at* CANTON, *&c.*

Years	Quantity of Tons imported from India into Holland.	No. of Blocks raiſed in Cornwall.	Number of Blocks exported.	Remaining for Home Conſumption.	Average Prices of Tin ſold at Canton per Ton.
1760	324				
1761	184				
1762	325				
1763	369				
1764	59				
1765	279				
1766	145				
1767	167				
1768	311				
1769	457				
1770	210				
1771	311				
1772	391				
1773	255				
1774	250				
1775	262				
1776	409				
1777	256				
1778	257				
1779	337				
1780	310				
1781	None				87 10 0
1782	44				105 0 0
1783	136	16705	11000	5705	87 10 0
1784	370	17456	10170	7386	84 10 0
1785	310	18753	13000	5753	93 6 8
1786	195	22096	15265	6831	87 10 0
1787	543	20824	14500	5404	98 12 6
1788	80	21790	15400	7290	93 6 8
1789		22132	13240	8892	96 10 0

The conſumption of Tin in China is from 3 to 4000 Tons a year, equal to the annual Produce of the County of Cornwall, excluſive of the great demand in the extenſive Countries of India and Perſia, where the inhabitants make uſe of this article in different ways.

The Tin imported in 1785 ſold in Holland at 74l. per Ton, and in 1788 at 69l. per Ton, when the Engliſh ſold there at 84l. per Ton.

So much is Engliſh Tin in eſtimation in Holland, that it always ſells for more than the Malacca and Banca Tin. It is very extraordinary that the Dutch ſhould import any Tin from India into Holland to ſell for 74l. per Ton, when the price has not been leſs than 84l. and as high as 98l. in China for theſe ten years paſt; and in the year 1787, the quantity imported amounted to 543 Tons, when the price that ſeaſon in China was 98l. per Ton, and the preceding year at 93l. At that time I offered to purchaſe from them at Malacca, Banca, and Batavia, ten thouſand pounds worth, at 75l. per Ton, which could not be procured.

The only way I can account for this annual importation is, that the Pepper ſhips require very heavy ballaſt, and that they take thoſe quantities of Tin on board for that purpoſe, or being two late in the ſeaſon to carry it to China. I am informed, that the Dutch are in debt to the Chineſe—if ſo, it is beyond my comprehenſion, their reaſon for importing in 1787 the above quantity, value ſold for in Holland about 40,000l. which would have produced them 50,000l. in China.

GEORGE UNWIN.

Lambeth, Surry.

TIN

TIN *exported from* GREAT-BRITAIN *in* 1785.

	C.	qr.	lb.	C.	qr.	lb.
DENMARK -	372	1	15			
Ruſſia - -	8,028	1	16			
Sweden -	986	3	20			
E. Country -	725	3	7			
Germany -	2,719	3	0			
Holland -	5,217	1	20			
Auſtrian Flanders	1,662	1	12			
France and F. Flanders	13,339	2	10			
Portugal and Madeira	1,019	0	0			
Spain and Canaries	2,555	0	18			
Streights of Gibraltar	9	2	14			
Italy - -	5,965	0	10			
Turkey -	2,368	0	10			
Ireland -	739	1	10			
Guernſey -	0	2	0			
Total Europe				45,709	1	22
States of America	55	1	18			
Britiſh Colonies	139	1	0			
Weſt-Indies -	155	1	8			
Total America				349	3	26
Aſia -	-	-		* 300	0	0
Africa -	-	-		77	0	0
Grand Total				46,436	1	20
Number of Tons	2321	16	1	20		

* Loſt in the Hartwell Eaſt-Indiaman.

To

To the Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Council, appointed by his Majeſty for the Conſideration of all Matters relative to Trade and Foreign Plantations.

Jan. 29, 1790.

The humble Memorial of the underſigned in Behalf of the Tinners at large of the County of Cornwall.

WITH all due deference and reſpect your Memorialiſts beg leave to repreſent to your Lordſhips, that the County of Cornwall, for a long time paſt, has been labouring under very alarming diſtreſſes, owing to a greater quantity of Tin being riſen than the European markets could conſume, and conſequently the very low price to which that ſtaple commodity has fallen:—To ſuch a ſtate, my Lords, was this trade reduced about ſix months ſince, that ſome of the deep mines were obliged to ſtop working, and it was feared that many others would ſhortly have ſhared the ſame fate. At that time your Lordſhips Memorialiſts took the liberty of laying a ſtate of their caſe before the Honourable Court of Directors of the Eaſt-India Company, who were graciouſly pleaſed to contract with the County for ſix hundred tons, at the rate of 72l. per Ton (5l. per Ton under

 the

the preſent price in Cornwall) to be exported to China by the ſhips of this ſeaſon.

Your Memorialiſts further acquaint your Lordſhips, that ſundry ſmall quantities of Tin were ſent to China, between twenty and thirty years ſince, but, on account of the high price here, the Directors were obliged to diſcontinue their orders.

Your Memorialiſts being aware that it will not be in the power of the Directors of the Eaſt-India Company to continue this trade open to China, for the ſurplus quantity of Tin in Cornwall, but at a very low price, feel it incumbent on them to ſtate to your Lordſhips, that the duty of 3s. 4d. per Cwt. payable to government, on exportation, is a very heavy charge, and will probably be the means of preventing an annual export of Tin from this Country to the China market, which is now entirely ſupplyed by the Dutch, and which alone can give effectual relief to the accumulating diſtreſſes of the county of Cornwall.

Your Memorialiſts, therefore, humbly hope for your Lordſhips kind interference with government for the remiſſion of this duty of 3s. 4d. on all Tin exported to China and the Eaſt-Indies, which may be a great inducement to the Honourable Court of Directors not only to take off the preſent remaining Surplus, but likewiſe what may accrue from year to year, and thereby render a bleſſing to the County of Cornwall,

Cornwall, and be of great national advantage in the conſumption of many articles which are made uſe of in raiſing Tin from the mines.

And your Memorialiſts, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

FALMOUTH,
JOHN THOMAS,
——CREGO,
N. DONNITHORNE,
GEORGE UNWIN.

To the Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Council, appointed by His Majeſty for the Conſideration of all Matters relative to Trade and Foreign Plantations.

My Lords,

WITH all due reſpect, I beg leave to ſend your Lordſhips the accompanying extracts of a letter from the Honourable Eaſt-India Company to His Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales's Council *, in which it will appear, that the unſucceſsful efforts to introduce the article of Tin from this country into the India and China markets, in the years 1762, 1763, 1766, and 1768, did not proceed from any objections the Chineſe had in receiving it, who gave equally the ſame price for the Engliſh as for the Dutch; it was in conſequence of the proſperity of the Tin Trade of the County of Cornwall at that time, when the conſumption of the European and Home markets, were equal to the annual produce of the county, and afforded a tolerable fair price to the adventurers from 65l. to 70l. per Ton in Cornwall for common Block Tin; that the Eaſt-India Company could not be ſupplied with it, adding the duties and other charges, for leſs than from 76l. to 80l. per Ton on board; as the price of Tin at that

* See Letter to the Prince of Wales's Council, Page 6.

that time, in the China and other Markets, was not more than from 67l. to 70l. per Ton, the Eaſt-India Company diſcontinued that trade. I beg leave further to obſerve to your Lordſhips, that, about the year 1761 or 1762, the Eaſt-India Company ſent out a large quantity of Grain Tin, which bore a higher price in this country than the common Block Tin, and did not ſell for more in China than the latter, which will account for the loſs the Company ſuſtained in their Tin ſales of twenty-three per cent.

Notwithſtanding, my Lords, the article of Pewter, which conſumed a large quantity of Tin, is now very little uſed in this country, (Earthen-ware being ſubſtituted in its ſtead) Cornwall has had no reaſon to complain of its Tin Trade, till within theſe few years, ſince the copper-mines in Angleſey have turned out ſo very productive, and can be worked much cheaper than thoſe in Cornwall; in order to prevent the ruin of that trade in both countries, they have formed themſelves into a company, to furniſh equally a ſupply neceſſary for all the markets; in conſequence of which, Cornwall has ceaſed to raiſe the uſual quantity of Copper, and the unfortunate miners, who were turned out of employment, diſtributed themſelves in the Tin-mines, and, from the year 1785, about the time that company was formed, to the preſent time, (which your Lordſhips will ſee by my book in your poſſeſſion) the county has raiſed one-fifth more Tin

than

than the annual conſumption of the European markets, which is the ſole cauſe of the preſent misfortunes to that trade, and has reduced the price of Tin from 72l. to 58l. per Ton in the courſe of the laſt year; and, from the apprehenſion that the markets, in conſequence of the low price, are glutted with that article, I am ſure it would have fallen, by this time, to 55l. per Ton, a loſs to the county of ſixty thouſand pounds per annum, had not the exportation of ſix hundred tons taken place with the Eaſt-India Company; and would alſo have been the means of ſhutting up ſeveral deep and expenſive mines, and the unfortunate miners employed in them turned above ground, to ſuffer, with their families, the greateſt poverty and diſtreſs. This is the time when Corniſh adventurers look up to your Lordſhips for ſupport; and happy to embrace that part of the Eaſt-India Company's Letter, with the repreſentations from their ſupracargoes at Canton, about the year 1761, or 1762, "that, if the Tin of "Cornwall could be purchaſed from 66l. to 70l. per "ton it would anſwer;" which was a great inducement to apply to the Eaſt-India Company to relieve the diſtreſſes of that trade, in taking off the preſent Surplus Tin of Cornwall at 72l. per ton, when I am in certain poſſeſſion, that the price, from that time, has increaſed in China from 68l. to 93l. per ton, which is holding out every encouragement to the Dutch, by the Chineſe, to carry a larger quantity into that market, when it can be collected by them, from among

among the Iſlands in the Eaſt-Indies, at about 62l. per ton, clear of all charges whatever, and would leave a profit of fifty per cent. From theſe circumſtances, I have every reaſon to believe, my Lords, that the whole quantity of Tin which can annually be raiſed in the Iſlands, is not equal to the conſumption of the China market alone. My opinion is corroborated by a very intelligent Aſiatic merchant, Mr. David Scott, from Bombay, who has aſſerted to the Eaſt-India Company, in his new Commercial Syſtem, preſented to them laſt March, that 100,000l. worth of Tin ſent from this country annually to China, would have no viſible impreſſion on that market; and, ſince the experiments I have made on the malleability of the Corniſh Tin, that Gentleman congratulates me *, on a further hope of an increaſe to our Trade, more than the ſix hundred Tons; therefore, my Lords, the County of Cornwall, in order to ſecure a good opening of their trade into China, have made every ſacrifice in their power, by furniſhing the Eaſt-India Company with the above quantity at 72l. per ton on board, which is 5l. under the preſent diſtreſſed European price; and, ſhould your Lordſhips be pleaſed to interfere to get a remiſſion of the Export Duties, it will bring the price ſo low, that I hope the Dutch, who, no doubt, will be very jealous at meeting with ſo unexpected a rival in that market, where their ſole dependance is placed in the

* See Page 41.

the article of Tin to procure their homeward-bound cargoes, will not attempt to reduce the China market to that price, at the expence of 72,000l. per annum, without rendering any loſs to the Honourable Eaſt-India Company, in carrying into China the Surplus Tin of Cornwall, in value about 60,000l. a year. This, I hope, will induce them to make an addition to their export this ſeaſon of the remaining Surplus, about two hundred and fifty tons more, to complete the ſalvation of the Tin trade of the County of Cornwall, and make thouſands of families happy and comfortable.

I have the honor to be,

With the greateſt reſpect,

My Lords,

Your lordſhips moſt faithful,

And moſt devoted humble Servant,

GEORGE UNWIN.

No. 6, *Moore-Place,*
Lambeth, Surry,
Feb. 4, 1790.

COPY *of a* LETTER *from* DAVID SCOTT, *Eſq. one of the Eaſt-India Directors, to* MR. GEORGE UNWIN. *Dated Eaſt-India Houſe, Nov.* 20, 1789.

SIR,

I Have to return you my beſt thanks for the Book which you have ſent me, containing the various trials made under your direction on the Engliſh and Indian Tin.

It muſt add as much to your ſatisfaction, as it has to your credit, your having been ſo inſtrumental in promoting the Tin commerce, by the light which you have thrown upon the ſubject.

It affords me great pleaſure to find, from the experiments which you have made, that we may flatter ourſelves with the diſtreſſed County of Cornwall getting ſtill further relief from the increaſe of the exports.

I am, with eſteem, Sir, &c. &c.

An ACCOUNT *of the* PRIME COST *of all* CARGOES *purchaſed in* CHINA, *and ſhipped for* EUROPE, *during the laſt Five Years, diſtinguiſhing each Year, according to the lateſt Advices.*

				£. Ster.
From Feb. 21,	1784	to Feb. 7,	1785	642,559
Feb. 8,	1785	to Feb. 28,	1786	1,112,512
Feb. 23,	1786	to April 3,	1787	1,893,971
April 3,	1787	to April 7,	1788	2,008,521
April 5,	1788	to Mar. 26,	1789	1,691,118

PRICES *of* JAPAN COPPER *ſold in* CHINA *for ſeven Years paſt.*

In the Year	1781	-	125l. per Ton.
	1782	-	125l.
	1783	-	135l.
	1784	-	131l.
	1785	-	135l.
	1786	-	135l.
	1787	-	135l.

The above prices are calculated to be paid for in Old Mexico Dollars, reckoned at 5s. Sterling each, which the Eaſt-India Company now receive into their Treaſury at Canton, at 5s. 4d. for bills drawn upon them at 365 days ſight; and is equal to 6l. 13s. 4d. per cent. which advance upon the dollar will more than pay the diſcount upon the arrival of thoſe bills in England, and leave the above prices ready money.

GEORGE UNWIN.

COPY of the ACT for taking off the Duties upon unwrought Tin exported to any of the Countries beyond the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE. *Paſſed in the Year* 1790.

WHEREAS the taking off the Duty on Tin exported from Great-Britain to the Countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope, will encourage the raiſing a greater Quantity of Tin from the Mines of this Kingdom, and be thereby highly beneficial, as well to all concerned in the ſaid Mines, as to the Commerce of this Kingdom in general: May it therefore pleaſe Your Majeſty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That, from and after the Firſt Day of March, One Thouſand Seven Hundred and Ninety, no Duty of Cuſtoms whatever ſhall be charged or paid or payable upon any Tin unwrought which ſhall be exported, or entered for Exportation, from Great-Britain, to any of the Countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope; any former law now in Force to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Provided always, That the Exporter of ſuch Tin ſhall, with One or more ſufficient Perſon or Perſons to be approved by the Collector or Comptroller of the Cuſtoms

Cuſtoms at the Port where ſuch Tin ſhall be entered for Exportation, give Security, by Bond, in the Penalty of Double the Value of ſuch Tin (which Security the ſaid Collector or Comptroller of the Cuſtoms is hereby authoriſed and empowered to take), in the Name, and for the Uſe of His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, with Condition that the ſame ſhall be landed in ſome Port or Place in the Countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope; and ſuch Security ſhall be diſcharged on a Certificate under the Hand and Seal of the chief Supercargo of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaſt-Indies, if the ſame ſhall be landed in China; or by the like Certificate from the Governor, or two of the Council, at any of the ſaid Company's Settlements, if the ſame ſhall be landed within any of the ſaid Company's Settlements in the Eaſt-Indies; or by the like Certificate from Two principal Merchants, if the ſame ſhall be landed in any Port or Place in the Countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope where the ſaid Company have no Settlement or Supercargo; which Certificate ſhall be produced to the ſaid Collector or Comptroller of the Cuſtoms at the Port where ſuch Tin was exported, or to the Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Cuſtoms in England, within thirty Months from the Date of the ſaid Bond.

FINIS.

BRITISH MUSEUM